

DATE OF MEETING October 7, 2020

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SUBJECT CLIMATE AND ENVIRONMENTAL GAP ANALYSIS

OVERVIEW

Purpose of Report

To provide the Environment Committee with an update on the Climate Action Plan and review current policy and best practice to identify potential environmental policy and program gaps.

Recommendation

That the Environment Committee receive the attached presentation, provide comment, and input as requested.

BACKGROUND

During the 2020-JUN-03 Environment Committee meeting, the committee received a presentation from Lanarc Consulting on how Climate Action was going to be integrated into the REIMAGINE Nanaimo process.

At the time, the Environment Committee expressed a desire to provide comment and feedback on public engagement and survey design for the Climate Action Plan update, as well as, other relevant components in the REIMAGINE Nanaimo process.

The REIMAGINE Nanaimo process involves a comprehensive planning policy review and update of key strategic planning policy documents for the City. Central to this is an update of the City of Nanaimo 2008 Official Community Plan (OCP), the 2005 Parks Recreation and Culture Plan and the creation of the City's first Active Transportation Plan.

The process also includes a public engagement process for these plans as part of a broader process that involves coordinated engagement and review of other key strategic plans, including the Economic Development Strategy, Water Supply Strategic Plan, and the Sustainability Action Plan (Climate Action Plan).

By combining the review and update of these policy documents, the City can maximize community participation and engage the community on these interrelated policy documents.

DISCUSSION

The presentation will provide a high-level review of current and potential environmental frameworks and what needs to be considered when integrating them into the current REIMAGINE Nanaimo process.

The presentation reviews the City of Nanaimo Green House Gas emissions (GHG) profile, and the following key environmental policy focus areas:

- Climate Mitigation: GHG Targets and trends;
- Climate Adaptation: Flood, rainfall, drought, heat, slope stability;
- Watersheds: Water quality and quantity;
- Habitat conservation and restoration;
- Urban forest and vegetation cover, urban agriculture.

The presentation will be used to identify policy and program gaps that may exist. This input will contribute to the Phase 2 “Options Review” phase under REIMAGINE Nanaimo.

As each focus area is reviewed during the presentation, committee members will be asked to respond to the following questions:

- What leading successes do you know of;
- What issue / gap are yet to be addressed in Nanaimo;
- What integrated strategies could be considered? |

SUMMARY POINTS

- The REIMAGINE Nanaimo process involves a comprehensive planning policy review and update of key strategic planning policy documents for the City.
- The presentation will be used to identify policy and program gaps that may exist. This input will contribute to the Phase 2 “Options Review” phase under REIMAGINE Nanaimo.

Submitted by:

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